

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 1768

DEPT PASS HORN OF AFRICA COLLECTIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, PBOR, MOPS, ET, SO, CU
SUBJ: EAST GERMAN VIEWS ON HORN OF AFRICA

SUMMARY: EAST GERMAN AMBASSADOR IS PESSIMISTIC OVER PROPECTS
FOR NON-MILITARY RESOLUTION OF ERITREAN PROBLEM, BUT DENIES
THAT CUBANS WILL JOIN IN FIGHTING THERE, SHOULD ETHIOPIA
STEP UP ITS MILITARY EFFORT TO DEFEAT INSURGENTS. HE ALSO
SEEMED MORE RECEPTIVE THAN OTHER SOVIET BLOC COUNTRIES TO
POSSIBILITY OF UNSC MEETING ON OGADEN CONFLICT, NOW THAT
OAU EFFORTS TO CONVENE GOOD OFFICES COMMITTEE SEEM TO HAVE
BOGGED DOWN. END SUMMARY.

1. DURING COCKTAIL CONVERSATION WITH POLCOUNS, EAST GERMAN
AMBASSADOR KLINKERT SAID GDR IS STILL STRONGLY SUPPORTING
EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE POLITICAL SOLUTION TO ERITREAN PROBLEM.
HE SAID GDR'S OWN MEDIATION ATTEMPT WAS DIRECTED ESSENTIALLY
AT ONLY ONE OF SECESSIONIST GROUPS (PRESUMABLY EPLF), BUT,
"THEY SHOWED NO INTEREST IN ANYTHING BUT INDEPENDENCE."
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2. KLINKERT ACKNOWLEDGED THAT LARGE NUMBERS OF ETHIOPIAN
TROOPS WERE BEING MOVED NORTH FROM OGADEN. HE DID NOT DIS-
PUTE POLCOUNS'S SUGGESTION THAT ETHIOPIAN GOVT (PMGSE) IS
DUBIOUS OF ANY MEDIATORY EFFORTS AND IS MOVING AS QUICKLY
AS POSSIBLE INTO POSITION WHERE IT COULD SOON LAUNCH OFFEN-
SIVE AGAINST INSURGENTS ON SEVERAL FRONTS. KLINKERT DENIED

VEHEMENTLY ANY LIKELIHOOD THAT CUBAN MILITARY FORCES WOULD PARTICIPATE WITH ETHIOPIANS IN STEPPED UP ERITREAN WAR. (POLISH AMBASSADOR WAS EQUALLY FIRM FEW DAYS EARLIER IN DISPUTING POSSIBLE CUBAN MILITARY ROLE.) HE SAID CONDITIONS IN ERITREA WERE ENTIRELY DIFFERENT FROM OGADEN AND DID NOT FIT INTO CUBAN CONCEPT OF ITS MISSION TO AFRICA.

3. TURNING TO OGADEN, KLINKERT WAS EQUALLY PESSIMISTIC CONCERNING WILLINGNESS OF TWO BELLIGERENTS TO DEAL SERIOUSLY AND CONSTRUCTIVELY WITH UNDERLYING BASIS OF THEIR DISPUTE. HE ALSO FEARED, NOW THAT SHOOTING HAS STOPPED, THAT INTERNATIONAL INTEREST IN PROBLEM IS FLAGGING WITH EACH PASSING DAY, AS EVIDENCED BY REPEATED POSTPONEMENTS OF OAU GOOD OFFICES COMMITTEE MEETING IN LAGOS AND VIRTUAL SILENCE ON ISSUE IN INTERNATIONAL PRESS. WHEN ASKED WHAT IS GDR POSITION REGARDING POSSIBILITY OF UNSC MEETING IF OAU EFFORTS COME TO NAUGHT, KLINKERT THOUGHT HIS GOVT WOULD FAVOR IT AS MEANS OF REVIVING PRESSURE ON SOMALIA TO RENOUNCE ITS TERRITORIAL CLAIMS AGAINST ITS NEIGHBORS AND OF BRINGING BACK TO FORE NEED TO RESOLVE OGADEN PROBLEM, IF STABILITY IS EVER TO COME TO HORN.

MATHERON

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED HORN OF AFRICA.

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